

CAI
IA730
- B11



3 1761 11765528 2

~~Canada. Statistics bureau.
Other clothing industries.~~

~~1967-~~



AI
ZA720
-B11

INFORMATION: LANCASTER SOUND REGIONAL STUDY

BACKGROUND

One of the most magnificent parts of the High Arctic, Lancaster Sound, a deep marine channel on the north side of Baffin Island, poses a great challenge for Canadians in planning for the future uses of our national resources. Possibly the most productive biological area, the Sound also contains abundant renewable and non-renewable resources.

It is apparent that development(s) in this area would bring substantial economic benefits to the Northwest Territories and to Canada as a whole. However, the implications of such projects and their effects on the economic and social realities of the region's Inuit residents must be carefully considered.

The Lancaster Sound Regional Study evolved from the public hearings held in 1978 to examine an application by Norlands Petroleum Ltd. for permission to drill an exploratory well in Lancaster Sound. The hearings recommended that a comprehensive review of the complex resource use problems in the Lancaster Sound region should be done. In the fall of 1979 the Lancaster Sound Regional Study was initiated.

In February 1981, a synthesis of available data on Lancaster Sound, with analysis of the issues, was released to the public in the form of a draft Green Paper, by John C. Munro, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. The purpose of the draft Green Paper was to stimulate public participation in the identification of issues and subsequent formulation of options for the planning and use of the Lancaster Sound region.

Following the release of the draft Green Paper, public workshops took place in the North and in the South. Representatives of all interests in the Lancaster Sound area participated in this public review: Inuit, government, conservationists, public interest groups and concerned individuals were invited to provide a valuable and necessary contribution in the form of viewpoints, suggestions and criticisms.

All the input received during the public review phase has been published in a report by the Chairman of the Public Review, Peter Jacobs, under the title "People, Resources and the Environment", and was carefully considered in the preparation of the final Green Paper.

CURRENT SITUATION:

The final Green Paper is the result of two years of work by the Northern Affairs Program (of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada), in cooperation with the government of the Northwest Territories and the federal departments of Energy, Mines and Resources, Environment, Fisheries and Oceans and Transport.

An interdisciplinary working group, consisting of specialists from the participating departments and several outside consultants, adopted a regional approach to identify and analyse the significant issues bearing on the future uses of the region, and to provide a context for comprehensive planning. The federal Northern Land Use Policy, designed to improve the management of land and resources and to resolve conflicts between resource users, was announced by the Minister in July 1981. As the details of this program have not yet been put into place, some interim steps are proposed in the Green Paper, to open the way to consultation and participation in the preparation of an effective regional plan.

ISSUES:

The long-term health of the Lancaster Sound ecology is an important concern to all, especially to the Inuit who continue to depend on the resources of the region. The international conservation community is also very interested in the future of the Sound. As well, Lancaster Sound is the eastern entrance to the Northwest Passage which is a potential transit route for increased shipping if industrial developments of any kind should proceed in the Arctic. The Sound may hold hydrocarbon potential, hence, important decisions have to be made about the safety of future oil or gas exploration and development in pursuit of our national objective of energy self-sufficiency.

While the native communities of the region are concerned about the legislative protection of the environment and wish to see their land claim settled before any further developments, industry representatives emphasize that existing legislative controls are adequate to ensure environmental protection and that social disruption can be prevented by proper planning.

The final Green Paper presents six alternatives for the future use of the region which are based on opinions expressed during the public review. The options range from strict environmental protection to concerted economic development.

DEVELOPMENTS:

Following the release of the final Green Paper, further public discussions are expected to lead to a narrowing of these options before they are considered by the government and any decisions are made on the future use and management of the region's resources.

LANCASTER SOUND REGIONAL STUDY

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

All About the Green Paper

Draft Green Paper: The Lancaster Sound Region: 1980-2000

Background Reports: No. I Selected Physical Characteristics¹
II Selected Biological Characteristics
III Socio-Economic Characteristics
and Conservation Interests
IV Non Renewable Resources and Transport
V Jurisdictions and Legislation¹

Preliminary Data Atlas

People, Resources and the Environment: Report on the public review phase by Peter Jacobs

Green Paper: The Lancaster Sound Region: 1980-2000
Issues and Options on the Use and
Management of the Region


Lancaster Sound Data Atlas: publication September 1982

Report of the Environmental Assessment Panel^{1,2}
Lancaster Sound Drilling

Publications are available from Lancaster Sound Regional Study,
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0H4
(819) 997-0223.

¹Not available in Inuktitut

²Available from the Federal Environment Assessment
Review Office, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0H3



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2022 with funding from
University of Toronto

<https://archive.org/details/31761117655282>

Chronology of Events

- 1968 - Department of Indian and Northern Affairs grants oil exploration permits in Lancaster Sound to Magnorth Petroleums Ltd.
- 1971 - Magnorth begins seismic studies.
- 1974 - DINA gives approval-in-principle for Norlands Petroleums (a subsidiary of Magnorth) to drill one well in Lancaster Sound.
- 1977 - Approval-in-principle lapses when Norlands does not meet DINA requirements.
 - Norlands' proposal referred to Environmental Assessment Panel.
- 1978 - Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) guidelines issued.
- 1979 - Environmental Assessment Review Panel hearings conclude that assessment of exploratory drilling in Lancaster Sound cannot be made in isolation from broader issues; panel recommends a comprehensive investigation of region.
 - Lancaster Sound Regional Study set up and announced to Baffin Regional Council.
- 1979 - 80 Compilation of data base, data analysis, preparation of maps, community visits, distribution of preliminary data atlas for community input; publication of background reports, preparation of draft green paper.
- 1981 - February - Hon. John C. Munro releases draft green paper in Frobisher Bay.
 - April - public review phase begins.
 - community meetings held in Pond Inlet, Arctic Bay, Resolute and Grise Fiord.
 - ITC/BRIA Planning Workshop held in Frobisher Bay.
 - May - Public workshops held in Resolute and Ottawa.
 - July - Minister of INAC announces Land Use Planning Program.

- August - Draft of report on workshops completed by chairman Peter Jacobs.
- Sept-Dec - Green Paper rewritten incorporating comments from the public review.
- 1982 - January - Final text of Green Paper approved.
- May - Release of People, Resources and the Environment, (report on the public review phase) by Peter Jacobs.
- July - Release of the final Green Paper in Pond Inlet, by the Hon. John C. Munro.

- Planned:
- July - October - written responses to green paper received from industry, conservationists, southern public etc.
 - October - publication of Lancaster Sound Data Atlas.
 - October - Consultation Workshop in Lancaster Sound region.
 - November - presentation of public response to Minister.

